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22 January 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Congo: (C) The peaceful entry of UN forces into Kolwezi on 21 January is likely to be accompanied by a political struggle between Tshombé and Leopoldville over the Katangan leader's future role. (D)

(C) Tshombé clearly hopes that his surrender and reaffirmations of support for the UN plan will help him to salvage something of his former power. Although Adoula has said that Tshombé would be acceptable as provincial president, the Leopoldville government appears in fact to be planning to remove him. (D)

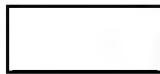
(C) Leopoldville reportedly hopes to reconvene the full Katangan assembly, which would include Baluba tribal leaders of northern Katanga who have been hostile to Tshombé throughout the crisis and who might block his re-election as president. Politicians from Leopoldville are reported to be already active in Elisabethville bribing pro-Tshombé assembly members to support a motion of censure against him. (D)

(C) Leopoldville's activities and ineptitude could easily provoke intertribal disorders in Katanga. Tension between pro- and anti-Tshombé tribes is already high. (D)

Venezuela: (C) The campaign of hit-and-run violence appears to have been intensified by the Communists.)

(C) The US Embassy at Caracas comments that the current widespread Communist terrorist activities may be designed in part to create a bad atmosphere in the country immediately before President Betancourt's proposed visits to the US and other countries in February D

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[Redacted]
Colombia: (President Valencia is under heavy pressure resulting from the deterioration of the economic situation over the past few months.)

(Public dissatisfaction has grown because of the increasing wage-price spread that has followed the devaluation of the peso last November. The US Embassy reports that Colombia's low foreign exchange balance makes the situation potentially critical. The embassy adds that conditions could deteriorate to a level which subversive elements might exploit. On 18 January, leftist agitators in Bogota turned a peaceful labor demonstration for higher wages into a violent riot.)

(Adding to the uncertainty is a general lack of confidence in the government. President Valencia has failed to provide effective executive leadership, and the cabinet ministers appear to be divided on policy matters.) [Redacted]

NOTE

USSR: The Soviet Union is now simultaneously registering two age groups for compulsory military service. Since the abolition of World War II emergency measures, the registration age has been 18, but under a decree issued last June, the 17-year age group was added for registration at the same time. The move was apparently necessary to maintain force levels at the present 3.2 million.

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